

TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following heading into page 1, immediately before the paragraph beginning

"This is a continuation..." (introduced by Preliminary Amendment):

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS--

Please replace the paragraph comprising lines 7-15 on page 1 with the following substitute paragraph:

--In the last few decades intensive efforts were undertaken to make alternative and more environmentally friendly processes available for the production of cellulosic fibres as a result of the environmental problems associated with the well-known viscose process. One interesting possibility to emerge in the last couple of years was to dissolve cellulose in an organic solvent without the formation of a derivative and to extrude moulded bodies from this solution. Fibres spun from solutions of this kind were also allocated the generic name of Lyocell by BISFA (The International Bureau for the Standardisation of Man-Made Fibres) whereby a mixture of an organic chemical and water is understood by an organic solvent. Moreover, fibres of this kind are also known by the term of "solvent-spun fibres".--

Please replace the paragraph comprising lines 17-28 on page 1 with the following substitute paragraph:

--It has been found that a mixture of tertiary amine oxide and water is particularly well suited as the organic solvent for the production of Lyocell fibres and respectively other moulded bodies. In this respect mainly N-methyl-morpholine-N-oxide (NNMO) is used as the amine oxide. Other suitable amine oxides are disclosed in EP-A 0 553 070. Processes for the production of cellulosic elongate

C2 members from a solution of cellulose in a mixture of NNMO and water are for example disclosed in US-PS Patent No. 4,246,221 or in PCT-WO 93/19230. In this process the cellulose is extruded through a spinneret, stretched in an air gap and precipitated from the solution in an aqueous precipitating bath. In the following this process is described as the "amine oxide process" or "Lyocell process" whereby in the following abbreviation "NNMO" means all tertiary amine oxides which can dissolve cellulose. Fibres produced according to the same amine oxide process are characterised by their high fibre tenacity in the conditioned and wet state, high wet modulus and high loop strength.—

Please insert the following heading into page 2, prior to line 26:

C3 --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION—

Please insert the following heading into page 3, prior to line 12

C4 --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--

Please replace the paragraph comprising lines 1-10 on page 3 with the following substitute paragraph:

C5 --This task is resolved by a process for the production of cellulosic fibres from solutions of cellulose in an aqueous tertiary amine oxide whereby the extruded fibres are led through a precipitating bath and cut and the cut fibres are passed in the form of a fleece through several wash baths and finally dried whereby the washing baths are connected one to the other and fresh washing liquor is applied to the last wash bath and led in countercurrent with the transportation direction of the fibre fleece to the first wash bath and whereby the process is ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the pH value of each of the wash baths is maintained higher than 8.5. For the purpose of the present invention, a pH value of more than 8.5 is termed an "alkaline pH value" in the following.--

Please replace the paragraph comprising lines 12-16 on page 3 with the following substitute

C6
[paragraph:

--The invention relates to so-called "washing lines" of a series of wash baths connected to each other. In accordance with the invention, the pH value of the washing liquor of each of the wash baths connected to each other has to be maintained higher than 8.5. Baths which are not connected to the wash baths and are, therefore, not fed with the same washing liquor, such as separate treatment and bleaching baths, are not covered by the present invention.—

C7
[Please replace the paragraph comprising lines 7-8 on page 5 with the following substitute

] paragraph:

--The invention is described in greater detail in the following ~~by the figure and the embodiments.~~--

C8
[Please replace the paragraph comprising lines 10-11 on page 5 with the following substitute

] paragraph:

--~~In this respect figure 1 describes in schematic form a A~~ process to wash a fibre fleece from freshly spun cut Lyocell fibres is described as follows:--

C9
[Please replace the paragraph comprising lines 13-24 on page 5 with the following substitute

] paragraph:

--The fibre fleece (10) is thereby conveyed e.g. on a screen belt (~~not shown~~) through the different wash baths (~~in figure 1 there are 5 wash baths~~). In each wash bath the fibre fleece is sprayed with wash liquor from above from a vessel (~~1 to 5~~) located below the screen belt. The wash liquor flows downwards back into the respective vessel. Fresh wash water is fed to the last bath (~~vessel 5~~). The wash water circulates in the respective baths whereby the rate of circulation within one bath can be

higher than the rate of supply of fresh wash water into the last wash bath. Excess wash water is led in countercurrent with the transportation direction of the fibre fleece to the respective upstream wash bath. Liquor is forced out of the fibre fleece by means of pairs of rollers ~~such as roller pair (11, 12)~~ following each wash bath. After leaving the last wash bath, the washed fibre fleece is led to other post-treatment stages and respectively dried. The wash water from the first wash bath is further led to the precipitating bath respectively to NMMO purification and recovery.—

Please delete the term "(Fig. 1)" from page 9.